



Ballistics Backstop

Recycled rubber chunks in the backstop facilitate bullet containment and reclamation

Location: San Francisco Police Department Training Range at the San Francisco Airport



Vendor: Paragon Tactical, Inc.

California tires diverted from landfills: 6,250 tires

Overview: In 2005, the environmental division of the San Francisco Airport temporarily closed the San Francisco Police Department Training Range located at the airport to conduct a \$1.5 million remediation of its tactical training range. The renovation included a new \$500,000 bullet containment system which is still successfully used today.

The ballistic backstop system made of recycled ground tire rubber captures the lead bullets and shotgun shells. Once a year a S.F. Police Department Training Range maintenance contractor rakes and vacuums the recycled ground rubber to recover the bullets in the backstop. Bullets are heavier and denser than the ground rubber and therefore stay on the concrete during the vacuuming process. A few times a year larger bullets are removed to minimize ricochets during training exercises.

Prior to the renovation in 2005, the lead bullets that missed the targets landed on the surrounding dirt berm at the range or ricocheted into the adjacent S.F. Bay. From time to time, airport construction project personnel would add a fresh layer